



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOUR ARRESTED IN  
BURLESON COUNTY-BASED METHAMPHETAMINE OPERATION**

**Johnny Sutton, United States Attorney for the Western District of Texas**, announced today the arrest of four Central Texas area residents last night on federal drug and firearm charges.

"These arrests and charges are a great example of local, state and federal law enforcement working together to make our communities safer places in which to live," stated U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton.

Those arrested include: 36-year-old Loy Eugene Allen, his wife, 36-year-old Dawn Marie Allen of Somerville, Texas, 45-year-old Valerie Jean Raspberry of Brenham, Texas, and Dawn Allen's brother, 24-year-old Jason Andrew Toner of Burton, Texas. A co-defendant in this case, Raspberry's husband, 32-year-old Kenneth Lee Raspberry, II, is currently in state custody on drug charges.

All five defendants were charged in a federal grand jury indictment returned in Austin, Texas, with conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine. Dawn Allen is also charged with two counts of possession of chemicals with intent to manufacture methamphetamine and two counts of carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking crime. Valerie Raspberry and Jason Toner are also charged with one count each of possession of chemicals with intent to manufacture methamphetamine and carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking crime.

The indictment alleges that between September 2002 and December 2003, the defendants conspired together to manufacture methamphetamine for distribution in Burleson and other surrounding counties. During a traffic stop near Brenham, Texas, on December 6, 2002, officers with the Independence Narcotics Task Force discovered a loaded .22 caliber rifle along with precursor chemicals used to make methamphetamine inside a vehicle driven by Dawn Allen and Valerie Raspberry. Authorities subsequently obtained a search warrant for Allen's residence where they discovered additional precursor chemicals.

On December 5, 2003, officers with the Independence Narcotics Task Force executed a traffic stop also near Brenham, Texas, on a vehicle driven by Loy Allen and Ken Raspberry. Inside the car, authorities discovered precursor chemicals and a propane tank leaking anhydrous ammonia. Authorities subsequently obtained a search warrant for Allen's residence in Somerville, where they discovered Jason Toner and Dawn Allen with methamphetamine, additional precursor chemicals and a loaded, sawed-off .20-gauge shotgun.

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“Just like cocaine and heroin, methamphetamine is a serious drug threat to Texas,” stated Sutton. “With production simplified and profit margins substantial, we are seeing more and more clandestine methamphetamine labs in operation. We will continue to seek out and destroy these illegal enterprises and vigorously prosecute those who make and sell this dangerous and highly addictive drug,” stated Sutton.

Upon conviction of all charges, Dawn Allen, faces between 30 and 70 years in federal prison; Valerie Raspberry and Jason Toner, between five and 30 years in federal prison; Loy Allen and Kenneth Raspberry, up to 20 years in federal prison.

This case was investigated by the Independence Narcotics Task Force consisting of the Burleson County Sheriff’s Office, Texas Department of Public Safety Narcotics Unit, Washington County Sheriff’s Office and the Brenham Police Department together with the District Attorney’s Office for both Burleson and Washington counties. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Doug Gardner.

**An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.**

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